

command to the retrieval means to retrieve the customer's order from the storage facility; and for creating and storing in memory a transaction record of each transaction with a customer, including drop-off and pickup by the customer, identifying the customer by credit card information, and for driving the printer means including printing said customer receipts based on the transaction record.

27. A system according to claim 26, further including telephone means with modem means and auto dialer means, for networking the customer interface outlet via the computer means with a control center for exchange of information between the control center and the customer interface outlet, including communication of the transaction records from the customer interface outlet to the control center.

28. A system according to claim 27, wherein the services are laundry/dry cleaning services, the control center comprising a central laundry/dry cleaning processing plant, and wherein the items to be dispensed to customers are processed customer garments.

29. A system according to claim 28, wherein the telephone means includes customer to plant communication means for enabling the customer to call up the central laundry/dry cleaning processing plant using the auto dialer means by the pressing of a button, for discussing problems, complaints and special requests.

30. A system according to claim 27, wherein the telephone means includes customer to control center communication means for enabling the customer to call up the control center using the auto dialer by the pressing of a button on the customer interface panel, for discussing problems and complaints.

31. A system according to claim 26, wherein computer means further includes automatic debiting means for creating a debit against the customer's general purpose credit card account for the services selected.

32. A system according to claim 31, further including automatic card verification means associated with the card reader means and the computer means for automatically verifying the validity of a customer's credit card for the services selected, and including a telephone line and modem means and auto dialer means connected to the computer means, for communication over the

telephone line with a credit card verification center for said verification of card validity.

33. A system according to claim 26, wherein the services are rental services for renting to customers a variety of items in the storage facility, and including item locator means for identifying the location of a selected item in the storage facility to enable retrieval of the item by the retrieval means.

34. A system according to claim 33, wherein the item locator means comprises means assigning a position location in the storage facility for each item offered and for retaining in the memory an association between each item and its respective position location, so that the computer means can issue a command to the retrieval means to go to a particular position in the storage facility to retrieve an item selected by the customer on the customer input means.

35. A system according to claim 33, wherein the item locator means comprises a readable identification code on each item held for rental in the storage means, and a code scanner means associated with the retrieval means for scanning the identification codes of items in the storage facility until a selected item is found.

36. A system according to claim 35, further including return item verification means for again scanning the returned rental item with the code scanner on the customer's return of the item to verify that the correct item is being returned.

37. A system according to claim 35, wherein the readable identification code is a bar code.

38. A system according to claim 26, further including item locator means associated with the retrieval means and the computer means, for identifying the location of an item to be picked up by the customer to enable retrieval of the item by the retrieval means.

39. A system according to claim 38, wherein the item locator means comprises a readable identification code on each item held in the storage facility for pickup by customers, and a code scanner means associated with the retrieval means for scanning the identification codes of items in the storage facility until an item to be picked up by the customer is found.

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